

THE JAMAICA INSURRECTION.

Trial of George William Gordon.

Testimony Before the Court-Martial.

Trial of George William Gordon, on Saturday, Oct. 21, 1865, before a Court-Martial, composed of Second Lieutenant and Commander Brand of the Royal Navy, President; Ensign Kelly of the 4th West India Regiment. The President read the charges against the prisoner, which are as follows:

1. High treason and sedition.
2. Having conspired with certain parties in the insurrection at Morant Bay, on the 11th October, 1865.
To both of which the prisoner pleaded not guilty.
John Anderson (a Rebel) sworn—states: The Rebels told me if I did not join them they would shoot me; I saw Mr. Gordon at St. George's; I was forced to travel away to Lethal Hall Barracks, where Mr. Egbert, Old Bogle got up to go to the mountains to look for men and to come to Morant Bay; I saw Mr. Gordon going to the meeting with paper and a piece of lead pencil in his ear; I heard George W. Gordon say Bogle they were going to hold a meeting, and if we did not get the back lands we must all die.
Cross-examined by the prisoner, through the President of the Court-Martial—I saw Mr. Gordon at St. George's on a Sunday; I did not date the month; I think it was June or July; but it was this year; I did not date it down; there were plenty more persons there beside Bogle and himself; all who were there heard it; it was in the morning after evening chapel; the sun arose; at about this time chapel was over—3 p. m.; I knew Mr. Gordon quite well.

The prisoner here asked the Court for pencil and paper to take notes of the evidence.
The Court was ordered to be cleared to consider the application.

The Court opened and the application granted. The prisoner was then provided with pencil and paper.
James Gordon (a Rebel) sworn, states—In August last Mr. Gordon went up to the Valley, Mount Lebanon, and says that George W. Gordon says that they must hold a meeting, because he wants to gather up men, and that he (Gordon) sent a letter to the Queen, and if he answer come, he would go himself to the Queen.

[Here a deposition of witness made before the Inspector of Prisons, and taken before Mr. McKenzie, J. P., was put in and read as follows: "Mr. George W. Gordon sent a letter to the Queen, stating there would be a war, and they must be prepared for it, and that the people would get their lands free."]

Witness continued—I still adhere to this deposition; he sent up afterward to say that all the people must throw up money, and send it to him, that he might pay for the letter to go home to the Queen, and if the letter won't go he will go himself to see the Queen face to face; and when we tell him we are not able to do that, it is the Queen send, we will do so, he said we must try our endeavor, and if we get the money we must send it to my post-office and direct it to Mr. Gordon and he will get it, and it must be signed G. W. Gordon at the back, and he will receive it anywhere at all, and from that I never heard anything at all until I saw a large body of them.

Cross-examined by the prisoner through the President of the Court-Martial—I knew the letter came from Mr. Gordon; I don't know his signature, but according to what the letter states it comes from him.

The Prisoner—I disclaim that letter; I never wrote such a letter in my life.

The Provost-Marshal tendered to the Court the deposition of a rebel, Thomas Williams, and stated: "That is my handwriting; I wrote it in the presence of Lieut. Jones of the Royal Artillery; I was sent for and told that the deponent was dying and wished to speak to me; I took other officers with me."

The deposition was then read as follows:

Mr. Gordon said all the outside land you will get for nothing; he had ten meetings; he had tickets signed G. W. G.; he said white men keep all the money, and black people work for nothing; Mr. Gordon's people made the disturbance, and Mr. Gordon teach them all to be Gordon's friends at St. George's.

The Prisoner—That is given on hearsay, and I deny it.

The Provost-Marshal, cross-examined by the President of the Court—The dying man said all were Mr. Gordon's friends at St. George's, and Gordon teach them. The Provost-Marshal also tendered to the Court a document, signed William Robertson Peart and James Tyne Humber, sworn to before Justice of the Peace Gibb, of the same parish. The document was read, and the following are extracts:

"William Robertson Peart and James Tyne Humber were present at a meeting at Vere called to discuss the merits of Dr. Underhill's letter."

"Mr. Gordon, he is a bad man and not sound. The Governor sanctions everything done by the white man to the oppression of the black man. My people get by per work. What do you get? (A voice, S. S.) Look at those clothes. You are half naked and starved. They represent to the Queen that you are thieves. The Queen's advice is all trash; it is not her advice. Mr. Price and a few others are worthy people. You Governor, he is a good man; he is putting fire to your own house; Sabbath-breaking is bringing down a curse upon you. I hear your overseer has said that if you attend this meeting he will tear down your houses. He can't do it. Do as they do in Haiti."

The Prisoner—I said the laborers in England got that. As to Haiti, I never thought of it, and my Heavenly Father knows it.

The Provost-Marshal also tendered to the Court another letter, signed by him in the house of the Rebel Chisholm (one of the ring-leaders,) which he swore to as being in the handwriting of George W. Gordon. The letter was read as follows:

"DEAR CHISHOLM: I have much to say to you. Please send, and tell McIntosh, Clarke and Bogle to inquire for letters, they are all starving in Vere; pray to God for help and deliverance."

The Provost-Marshal tendered to the Court a deposition of Charles Chevanne, sworn to before Mr. Bickwell, police magistrate. The deposition was read and received.

Shortly after the trial of Gordon, the Baron, Lord Chief Justice, expressed his regret to Mr. Gordon; he said: "Never mind, if I don't get revenge my people will."

The Provost-Marshal tendered to the Court a deposition, sworn to by George Thomas (a Rebel), not able to attend the Court, being sick in hospital taken before Mr. Marshall, J. P., as follows:

"I, George Thomas, residing at York, in the parish of St. Thomas-in-the-East, do solemnly swear that these three weeks they begin on it; Paul Bogle and Moses Bogle they sent to call me and several others; when I went they swore me and told me that on the appointed day I would see what was done; the day appointed was Wednesday, the 11th Oct., 1865; they told me I was entitled to four shillings a day and we never got it; Mr. Gordon never came at a meeting; we trouble Mr. Gordon, because he is a friend of Mr. Gordon; I repeat that Mr. Gordon is the head of the rebellion; he (Mr. Gordon) put up the Bogle to do it; I heard Paul Bogle say on Wednesday evening, the 11th Oct., 1865: 'Good God! we can't get no fire, look at the white men killing all the black people;' he called for the fire; I have heard Mr. Gordon advise the people not to pay for the lands, and they must seek for the white people's land."

Monday, the 9th Oct., 1865—I saw four policemen come to Bogle Yard; they were Fuller, Laka, a Mason and McKay, and two constables whom they arrested; I know one of the constables; he is named Weston Davis, and one named Betty; I have seen James Dacres at one of the meetings; I have seen William Bogle and the other brother, who work Mr. Marshall's logwood yard, at the meetings; Mr. Gordon of Church Corner, and a man named Grant of Hancoy Land, used to write at the meetings, and I have seen a small man from town; I hear he is a family of George Clark at Paul Bogle's house; and he all time write there. George Clark said his father-in-law (Paul Bogle) got out, that

Clark has nothing to do with this war. I never see him at the meetings.

His
"GEOGRAPHY X. THOMAS.
Mark.
"Sworn to before me, this 12th day Oct., 1865.
"DAN. MARSHALL, J. P.
Parish of St. Thomas, in that."

The Prisoner—That is quite untrue.
The Provost-Marshal handed to the Court 300 placards, found in George W. Gordon's possession in Kingston. The following is a copy of it:

"PUBLIC MEETING—A public meeting will be held at — on — the day — for the purpose of —
Chair to be taken at — o'clock, by —"

The Provost-Marshal handed to the Court a placard, supposed to be printed at The Watchman office, headed "State of the Island."

STATE OF THE ISLAND—PUBLIC MEETING—ST. ANN'S BAY—ST. THOMAS THE EAST.

A requisition, unanimously signed, for a public meeting, to consider "the state of the condition of the people," having been presented to the Custos, His Honor has appointed Saturday, the 20th inst., for a public meeting, at the Court-House, Morant Bay. We trust there will be a great meeting, and that the people will be able to express themselves freely, and to be interfered with by any of those who have already written to their disapproval, and made statements without proper foundation, which has so misled Her Majesty's Governor, and caused the very indirect dispatch which the Right Honorable Mr. Cardwell, Secretary of State, was induced to send to Mr. Eyre in reply to the St. Ann's memorial. This document ought to be well handled in the public mind. We know that our beloved Queen is too noble-minded to say anything unkind, even to her most humble subjects; and we believe that Mr. Cardwell and Her Majesty's other Ministers are gentlemen, and will be guided by the feelings of Her Majesty's Colonial subjects; and we fear they have been deceived and misled, and the consequence is a serious grievance to our people; but we advise them to be prudent, yet firm in their resistance, and we have no doubt that truth will ultimately prevail. People of St. Ann's; poor people of St. Ann's; starving people of St. Ann's; naked people of St. Ann's, you who have no sugar estates to work on, no money, no other employment, we call on you to come forth. Even if you be naked, come forth and protest against the unjust representations made against you by Mr. Eyre, and his hand of custody. You don't require custody to tell your work; but you want money to support your families; you want money to support your families; you want money with a sense of right and wrong and who can appreciate you. Call on your ministers to reveal your true condition; and then call on Heaven to witness and have mercy.

People of St. Thomas-in-the-East! You have been wronged down too long already. Shake off your slota. Let not a crafty, Jesuitical rector deceive you. Speak like honorable and free men, and say, 'Remember the Government have taxed you to defend your own rights against the enemies of an unscrupulous and oppressive foreigner, Mr. Custos Ketelohid. You feel the dispatch from Mr. Cardwell, which he dared in this provoking act, and it is sufficient to extinguish your long patience. This is not the time when such deeds should be perpetrated; but as they have been, it is your duty to speak out, and to maintain your rights, and to be united in your efforts. The causes of your distress are many, and now is your time to review them. The causes, we learn, read at the last year's dispatch from Mr. Cardwell, which he seemed to think should quiet you; but how can men with a sense of wrong in their bosoms be content to be quiet with such a reproachful dispatch as this? Remember that he only is free when the truth makes men free. You are no longer slaves, but freemen. Then, as freemen, set your part on the 20th. If the conduct of the Custos in writing the dispatch to release you be not an act of impudence, it certainly is an attempt to stifle your voice, and to keep you in the dark. Are you so short-sighted that you cannot discern the crafty designs of Mr. Custos Ketelohid? Do you see how every vestry he puts off the cause of the poor until the Board breaks up, and nothing is done for you? You are no longer slaves, but freemen. Then, as freemen, set your part on the 20th. If the conduct of the Custos in writing the dispatch to release you be not an act of impudence, it certainly is an attempt to stifle your voice, and to keep you in the dark. Are you so short-sighted that you cannot discern the crafty designs of Mr. Custos Ketelohid? Do you see how every vestry he puts off the cause of the poor until the Board breaks up, and nothing is done for you? 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